



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

1047 US 127 SOUTH
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-1975

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Larry L. Roberts, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Daniel Lowry
502.564.3219
502.545.9089

Kentucky Labor Cabinet Partners with Gray Construction for Champion Petfoods' Project in Logan County *Agreement is cabinet's first partnership with Gray*

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Sept. 5, 2014) – In an effort to increase safety during the construction of an \$85 million project in Logan County, Gray Construction has entered into its first Construction Partnership Program with the Kentucky Labor Cabinet. The formal site-based agreement allows the Labor Cabinet to conduct numerous jobsite audits during the construction of a world-class, 350,000-square-foot pet food kitchen in Auburn.

Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary Larry L. Roberts today joined company officials from Champion Petfoods and Gray in Lexington for the official signing of the partnership agreement.

"This agreement is similar to an open-door policy," said Secretary Roberts. "Gray wants our safety experts on hand as much as possible, and we want to be there to help identify hazards. The result should be a safe workplace, which is the goal for Champion Petfoods, Gray, the Labor Cabinet, and every worker involved in this construction."

Founded in 1960, Gray is a design-build firm headquartered in Lexington. The family-owned company offers engineering, architecture and construction services to domestic and international customers. Gray's No. 1 core value is to put safety and quality of life first.

“For more than 50 years, Gray has committed to living our No. 1 core value, safety and quality of life,” said Stephen Gray, CEO of Gray Construction. “We are excited to partner with the Kentucky Labor Cabinet and Champion Petfoods to further demonstrate our dedication to safety and ensure that all workers go home to their loved ones safe and unharmed at the end of each day.”

Champion Petfoods, headquartered in Canada, sells dog and cat food brands in more than 70 countries. Champion never outsources food production and makes everything in its own award-winning kitchens. The Kentucky location will be the company’s first kitchen in the United States, and is expected to be operational in 2016. The company plans to purchase only fresh ingredients from local farmers and suppliers.

Champion Petfoods is an independent, award-winning pet food maker with a tradition of innovation and leadership that spans over a quarter century. Champion prepares Biologically Appropriate™ dog and cat food made from Fresh Regional Ingredients that are Never Outsourced (BAFRINO).

“We’re determined to safely build custom-fitted BAFRINO kitchens,” said Champion Petfoods President and CEO, Frank Burdzy. “We are very pleased that the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Labor Cabinet and Gray Construction have partnered with us to build our Biologically Appropriate™ mandate safely.”

As part of the Construction Partnership Program, workplace safety experts with the Labor Cabinet’s Office of Occupational Safety and Health will make frequent visits to the site. Visits begin with an on-site conference of employees and subcontractors followed by a walk-through inspection to identify hazards.

All findings are discussed in a closing conference, followed within days by a detailed presentation of any hazards. In addition, abatement dates are set for deficiencies that have not already been corrected, and written reports will be prepared for Gray Construction.

Including this latest project, the Labor Cabinet is involved with 13 ongoing Construction Partnership Programs across the Commonwealth. This number fluctuates frequently as projects are added or completed.

Companies wishing to participate in the program can find out more by visiting www.labor.ky.gov or by clicking [here](#).

To learn more about Champion Petfoods, visit www.championpetfoods.com. For more on Gray, visit www.gray.com.

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The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov.

